THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) (b) and(d) The desired information in respect of medium and major power projects is given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 29) A capacity of 8839 MW would be added in the Northern Region, with the commissioning of these Projects.

(c) The main reasons affecting the commissioning schedule of power projects include delays in environment and forest clearance, placement of orders, supply of equipments, changes in scope of the works, delays in acquisition of land and in execution of civil works, and at times resource constraints.

(e) A number of measures have been taken to assist the State/Proeject authorities in expediting the implementation of power projects. These measures include regular monitoring of the projects by the Central Electricity Authority to expedite supply of equipment and materials, visits to projects sites by engineers of the Central Electricity Authority to resolve problems and organising review meeting of agencies concerned, to coordinate project implementation. The need to obviate time and cost overruns in project implementation is being constantly emphasised on implementing agencies.

Surplus stock of molasses

546. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that because of non-lifting of molasses by the distilleries particularly in Uttar Pradesh due to high rate of tax levied by the State Government for inter-state movement of alcohol, huge stocks of molasses have accumulated causing heavy losses to the sugar mills;

(b) whether in view of the prevailing situation, Government propose to allow the sugar industry to export surplus stock of molasses to ease the situation and if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir, but the poor lifting has been on account of poor demand and not because of high taxes.

(b) Export of 4 lakh tonnes of Molasses to foreign countries has been allowed for the present.

(c) Does not arise.

Gas turbine units at Ramgundam Super Thermal Power Plant

547. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared any proposal for the installation of more gas turbine units at Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, what would be the additional power capacity generated as a result thereof and the capital cost involved; and

(c) by when such additional power capacity is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present, to instal gas turbine units at the Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station of the National Thermal Power Corporation.

Availability of essential drugs

548. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to knowledge of Government that due to dispute between the drug companies and the trade, difficulties have arisen in the availability of essential and life saving drugs; and

(b) whether Government propose to intervene and find a permanent solutio